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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,331	11/06/2001	Erik M. Geidl	2860	5686

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MICHALIK & WYLIE, PLLC
Suite 103
14645 Bel-Red Road
Bellevue, WA 98007

EXAMINER

VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,331

Applicant(s)

GEIDL ET AL.

Examiner

Huyen Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kang et al. (US Patent No. 6741994).

3. Regarding claims 1 and 14, Kang et al. disclose that in a computing device, a method and computer-readable medium comprising: receiving, at a system component, natural input data directed to a field of an executing program (*element 304 in figure 3*); determining, external to the executing program, a context of the field (*col. 7, ln. 42 to col. 8, ln. 67, identifying which record field the data belongs to*); locating biasing information based on the context of the field (*col. 8, ln. 3 to col. 9, ln. 21*); and providing a recognition result to the executing program, the recognition result biased by the biasing information and comprising at least one computer code corresponding to recognition of the natural input (*col. 6, ln. 36 to col. 7, ln. 31 or referring to figure 5*).

4. Regarding claim 15, Kang et al. disclose that in a computing device having an executable program, a system comprising:

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a recognition engine configured to convert natural input data to recognition results, each recognition result comprising at least one computer code (*figures 4-5 or the operation of figure 3*);

a field determination mechanism that determines field types in fields of executable programs (*col. 7, ln. 42 to col. 8, ln. 67, identifying which record field the data belongs to*);

at least one database that maintains biasing information for a plurality of field types (*figure 7 or col. 8, ln. 45 to col. 9, ln. 21, biasing information is the rules used to determine which record field a particular line of data belongs to*), and an input system configured to:

- 1) receive natural input data directed to the field (*information on figure 4*);
- 2) communicate with the field determination mechanism to obtain the field type of the field to which the natural input data is directed (*Organize Data 310 in figure 3, Organized Data processes and assigns received data in appropriate record fields*);
- 3) obtain biasing information from the database that corresponds to the field type (*figure 7 or col. 8, ln. 45 to col. 9, ln. 21, biasing information is the rules used to determine which record field a particular line of data belongs to*);
- 4) communicate the natural input data and the biasing information to the recognition engine and receive the recognition result therefrom (*col. 8, ln. 45 to col. 9, ln. 21, the recognizer uses a set of rules to determine which record field the data belongs to*); and

5) provide to the executing program at least one computer code corresponding to the recognition result received from the recognition engine (*information displayed in figure 5*).

5. Regarding claim 30, Kang et al. disclose that in a computing device, a system comprising:

a field determination mechanism that determines a field type in an executable program and provides a factoid associated therewith (*col. 7, ln. 42 to col. 8, ln. 67, a set of rules is used to identify which record field the data belongs to*);

a database of biasing information including sets of user bias data corresponding to factoids (*col. 10, ln. 4-30, words pertaining to addresses are stored in the dictionary*);

an input system configured to receive natural input data (*element 402 in figure 4*), to obtain a factoid from the field determination mechanism (*col. 8, ln. 45-67, the application program use rules to determine data field for the received data*), and to obtain user bias data corresponding to the factoid (*col. 10, ln. 4-30 and col. 8, ln. 45-67, words/rules pertaining to addresses are used to determine if the input belongs to the address field*);

a recognizer that converts natural input data to computer codes (*the operation of figure 3 takes place in a computer system*), the recognizer configured to receive the factoid, the user bias data and the natural input data from the input system and to provide a recognition result comprising a set of at least one computer code to the input

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system based on the natural input data, the factoid and the user bias data (*col. 8, ln. 3 to col. 9, ln. 20 and referring to figures 5-7 for analysis and display*); and

the input system returning data to the executable program that corresponds to the recognition result (*figures 2-3, the input system accepts input data and passes it to the executing program to analyze, process, and store the input data in the database*).

6. Regarding claims 2 and 5, Kang et al. further disclose a method of claim 1 wherein the biasing information comprises a factoid including at least one validation rule (*col. 8, ln. 45-67*), and wherein the biasing information comprises a set of user bias data (*col. 9, ln. 27-40 or col. 10, ln. 4-30*).

7. Regarding claims 3-4, Kang et al. further disclose a method of claim 2 wherein the factoid is developed based on communicating with the executing program (*figures 6-7, received input is analyzed by the application program and a set of tokens are derived*), and wherein providing a recognition result to the executing program includes providing the factoid to a recognition engine (*col. 7, ln. 32 to col. 8, ln. 67, the application program uses rules to determine which record field the received data belongs to*).

8. Regarding claims 6-8, Kang et al. further disclose a method of claim 5 further comprising, maintaining the set of user bias data in a user bias database (*stored keywords pertaining to addresses are used as rules for the address field*), and retrieving

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the set of user bias data from the database by querying the database with a key that corresponds to the field (*col. 8, ln. 1-45, the stored rules/words pertaining to addresses are compared with the received input to determine if the received data belongs to the address field*), harvesting the user bias data from at least one data store accessible to the computing device (*col. 10, ln. 4-30, stored in dictionary*), and providing the set of user bias data to a recognition engine (*col. 8, ln. 45-6, rules or stored keywords are used by the recognizer to determine if the received data belongs to the address field*).

9. Regarding claim 9, Kang et al. further disclose a method of claim 1 wherein the biasing information comprises a factoid including at least one validation rule (*col. 8, ln. 45-67*) and a set of user bias data (*col. 10, ln. 4-30, words pertaining to addresses*), and wherein providing a recognition result to the executing program includes providing the factoid and the set of user bias data to a recognition engine (*col. 8, ln. 45-67, the recognizer uses a set of rules to determine which record field the data belongs to*).

10. Regarding claims 10-11, Kang et al. further disclose a method of claim 1 wherein determining the context of the field includes generating a field signature (*element 502 in figure 5*), and wherein the field corresponds to a window (*each of the record field in element 502 in figure 5 represent a window of field*), and wherein generating a field signature includes acquiring window attribute data (*col. 8, ln. 45 to col. 9, ln. 22, assigning data to the identified fields, wherein each item in element 502 in figure 5 is represented by attribute value*).

11. Regarding claims 12-13 and 18, Kang et al. further disclose a method and system of claims 1 and 15, wherein determining the context of the field includes communicating with the executing program (*col. 5, ln. 1-67*) and wherein the natural input data comprises speech or handwriting data (*col. 9, ln. 27-40*).

12. Regarding claims 16-17, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 15 wherein the field determination mechanism includes a field signature engine that generates a field signature corresponding to the field type based on characteristics of the field (*element 502 in figure 5 or referring to col. 6, ln. 50-55*), and wherein the characteristics of the field include text displayed proximate the field (*information displayed in figure 5*).

13. Regarding claim 19, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 15 wherein the at least one database of biasing information comprises a database of factoids (*col. 8, ln. 45-67, biasing information or rules are inherently stored within the system for use in analyzing the received input*), and wherein the input system communicates the biasing information including a factoid having at least one associated validation rule to the recognition engine (*col. 8, ln. 45-67, a set of rules are used to determine if the input belongs to a particular record field*).

14. Regarding claim 20, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 19 wherein the field determination mechanism includes a field signature engine that generates a field

signature corresponding to the field type based on characteristics of the field (*items of element 502 in figure 5*), and wherein each of the factoids in the database are keyed by an index corresponding to the field signature (*col. 10, ln. 3-30, words pertaining to addresses are used as rule in determining if the input belongs to the address field*).

15. Regarding claim 21, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 15 wherein the at least one database of biasing information comprises a database of sets of user bias data (*col. 10, ln. 3-30, words pertaining to addresses used as rules in determining if the input belongs to the address field are considered user bias data*), and wherein the input system communicates the biasing information including a set of user bias data to the recognition engine (*col. 8, ln. 45-67, the recognizer uses rules analyze the input*).

16. Regarding claims 22-23, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 21, wherein the user bias data set communicated to the recognition engine is retrieved from the database of sets of user bias data based on the field type determined by the field determination mechanism (*col. 8, ln. 45-67 and col. 10, ln. 3-30*), and wherein the database is securely maintained on the computing device (*system of figure 2, databases and rules are stored within this computer system*).

17. Regarding claims 24-26, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 21 further comprising a data-harvesting engine that obtains at least some of the user bias data from at least one data store accessible to the computing device (*col. 8, ln. 45-67 and*

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col. 10, ln. 3-30, words/rules pertaining to addresses are used to determine if the received data belongs to the address field), and wherein the database of sets of user bias data includes at least some data that was not harvested by the harvesting engine (col. 10, ln. 3-30, inherently the dictionary would also include words/rules pertaining to record fields other than the address field), and wherein the data harvesting engine operates as a background process (figure 2, rules are supplied to the recognizer application only when needed is referred a background process).

18. Regarding claims 27-29, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 15 wherein the at least one database of biasing information comprises a first database of factoids (*elements 200-206 in figure 2, each uses a different set of rules*) and a second database of sets of user bias data (*col. 10, ln. 3-30, a dictionary*), and wherein the input system communicates the biasing information including a factoid and a set of user bias data to the recognition engine (*col. 8, ln. 45-67*), wherein the factoid and the user bias data are retrieved from their respective databases based on the field type (*elements 200-206, each uses their own rules*), and wherein the factoid includes information corresponding to at least one criterion with which the recognition result should comply (*referring to the table in col. 7*).

19. Regarding claims 31-32, Kang et al. further disclose a system of claim 30 wherein the field determination mechanism comprises a field signature engine that generates a field signature for the field type and a field-mapping database that provides

the factoid based on the field signature (*items of elements 502 in figure 5 are generated and mapped to the received input*), and wherein the factoid includes information corresponding to at least one criterion with which the recognition result should comply (*referring to the table in col. 7*).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Freund et al. (US Patent No. 5809497) disclose a databank system for storing non-uniform data records that is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

October 26, 2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER